

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #7
May 15, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

On May 12, the WHO updated the count of human cases of H5N1 influenza to 208, including 115 deaths (55.3%). The changes from the previous week included an addition of one case and one death from Indonesia and the first case ever reported from Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa. In Djibouti, the illness was confirmed in a 2 year old whose three siblings also are ill and under investigation. Chicken deaths had been reported from that country in early April.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- VDH received CDC Notice of Grant Award for Phase I Supplemental Pandemic Influenza Planning and Preparedness and are proceeding with budgeted activities.
- The next Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee meeting will be held on June 28, 2006, 0900-1300, at Expressions in the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- Met with representatives of DOD Joint Center for Operational Analysis to discuss PanFlu planning and response.
- Conducted initial planning meeting with Virginia Association of Counties (VACO).
- VDH continues a series of Community Based Emergency Response System (CBERS) Isolation and Quarantine Exercises. In addition to Health participants, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Judicial / Legal, Medical Examiner, Hospitals and Mental Health partners have participated.
- Initial Planning Conference (IPC) for October '06 Statewide PanFlu Exercise was conducted via Video Teleconference on 5/12. Meeting to coordinate MD and DC participation scheduled on June 30.
- VDH staff presented information on pandemic influenza preparedness at a training conference for nurses from the Department of Corrections and to the Central Region Caucus.
- Chief Medical Examiner met with the VA. Funeral Directors on PanFlu planning. Will work with the Virginia Morticians Association as well.
- The first meeting of the **Avian** Influenza Task Force was held. The task force includes representatives from the Virginia Departments of Health, Agriculture and Consumer Services, Game and Inland Fisheries, General Services (DCLS), and Environmental Quality as well as several federal agencies. The group is identifying the capabilities of each agency and working to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response should an avian influenza situation occur.
- Initial Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	June 7
Near SW Region	June 6
Lord Fairfax	June 22
Eastern Shore	Late July
Fairfax	May 26
Pittsylvania-Danville	Late July
Rappahannock-Rapidan	June 21
Central Virginia	May 16
- Health Districts continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Local Health District Reports

• Loudoun

- Consulted with Assistant County Administrator to provide input on PanFlu as an enhancement to the CAO's report on emergency preparedness.
- Met with corporate and local health, safety and facilities personnel of Lockheed Martin, Fairfax Health Dept, Fairfax Emergency Management, VDH NoVA PIO, and Loudoun Emergency Management to exchange progress of planning activities by a large private sector employer with essential business in NoVA.
- Met with Loudoun Emergency Manager to obtain input into PanFlu planning needs assessment.
- Met with regional PIO to evaluate draft PanFlu communication toolkit items.
- Updated PanFlu activities at monthly Police Chief's meeting (local, state, sheriff).
- Continued work on draft PanFlu plan outline to be used in establishing workgroups.
- Representative from Dept of Economic Development added to membership.
- Attended University of Albany's webcast on 'Ethical Hazards in Pandemic Flu Planning and Response'
- Met with internal medicine office re: PanFlu response.
- Reviewed Inova Loudoun's draft PanFlu response Plan.
- "Preparing for Possible Flu Pandemic – The Loudoun County Health Department creates the Loudoun County Pandemic Flu Task Force... ", article published in Loudoun Connection, May 3-9, 2006.
- Article published in Leesburg Today on newly formed Loudoun Health Council.
- ALERT team members watched the ABC bird flu movie to identify strengths and weaknesses. No public questions received.
- Set up interview times for Health Educator candidates for next week.
- Implemented 'dead bird' surveillance log (first calls received this week).
- Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise:
 - Met with Prince William County Health Department planner to discuss the integration of their personnel into the exercise.
 - Developed and distributed agenda for May 15th Planning Team meeting to team members.
 - Contacted key core group leads and members and key liaison POCs to establish meeting dates and times to discuss the task list.
- Commonwealth/NCR SNS-PanFlu Exercise:
 - Participated in a NoVA RSS emergency planner-emergency manager-law enforcement meeting in Fairfax to discuss current planning developments of NoVA's receive, stage, and store (RSS) warehouse facility and the exercise of NoVA's SNS plan in October.
 - Attended the Initial Planning Conference (IPC) via Polycom.

• Rappahannock-Rapidan

- Continue to assist area hospitals' emergency preparedness committees with PanFlu preparedness planning and FluSurge numbers.
- Ad posted for temporary administrative position to assist with summit and public awareness campaign
- Met with a vendor and began initial planning for public awareness campaign.
- Updated talking points for district staff to use after the airing of ABC's "Fatal Contact: Bird flu in America".

- Held an initial internal planning session for the PanFlu Summit, scheduled for June 21 at the Culpeper County High School.
- Mailed over 500 "Save the Date" cards for the summit.
- Director gave a PanFlu talk to the Northwest Health Systems Agency Board of Directors.
- Attended a conference on Ethical Considerations in Pandemic Flu Planning.
- Distributed videos to community partners in three of our five counties.
- **Three Rivers**
 - PanFlu training to a group of potential members of a coordinating committee in King William County
 - Community PanFlu talk at Rapahannock Community College in Glens, Middlesex County
 - Communicated guidance talking points to local Physicians and school districts regarding ABC movie; "Fatal Contact, Bird flu in America".
 - Continued to make arrangements for the Middle Peninsula PanFlu seminar/exercise planned for 07/26/2006.
- **New River**
 - Monthly meeting with New River Valley-Regional Emergency Planning Coalition
 - Beginning dialogue with NRV-Regional Jail and Pulaski Correctional Center.
 - Scheduling meetings/presentations with NRV Ministerial Association and various civic organizations.
 - Will assist New River Community College with PanFlu video conference for business community.
- **Crater**
 - Planning activities have continued during the week in anticipation of our mass vax drill for PanFlu on May 20. Posters are being distributed throughout the District advising of the drill and soliciting volunteers for that day's activities. A media release was sent to all the local newspapers regarding the upcoming exercise as well.
- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester)**
 - Meeting of District Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee Regional Trainer participated.
 - Epi Newsletter to printer - includes registration for our District Pandemic Influenza Summit June 22.
- **Roanoke / Alleghany**
 - PanFlu/infectious disease presentation for Roanoke Valley MRC
 - Attended CBERNS I&Q training on 5/10.
 - Attended Carilion PanFlu planning meeting yesterday, one excellent idea that emerged from that meeting is to have their employees (10,000+) complete something similar to what military personnel do prior to deployment. Essentially a detailed household plan explaining who will provide child care, how bills will be paid, etc. Stressing that should PanFlu occur, it will not be similar to other disasters with people sheltering in place at work or home, it will be an extended (multi month) affair with people going to and from work. Puts the personal responsibility on the individual employees. Suggest we do same for VDH. Addressing issues of stockpiling PPE based on daily use.
 - Will be meeting with City of Salem Fire, EMS, school, and municipal employees on 5/19/06 to discuss PanFlu issues.
 - Coordinating with Roanoke Valley LEPC to do PanFlu presentations to area businesses.
- **Prince William**

- Met with CERT Coordinator to plan how the CERT team can be used as a resource for pandemic outreach to the community.
- Steering Committee (public health, EMA, EMS) met to plan our next county, Manassas Park, Manassas City government departments' pandemic planning meeting.
- Environmental health will be leaving the business checklist with all the restaurants they will be inspecting.
- We will present all our clinic patients language-appropriate material on personal preparedness.
- Had a PanFlu preparedness planning meeting with Manassas Park to update them on preparedness issues.
- County website updated to include pandemic flu information and personal preparedness information.
- Will present a CME conference on Pandemic Influenza and the Isolation and Quarantine laws at Prince William Hospital.
- Met with Manassas Park Fire Chief to plan our pandemic table top for PWHD in which departments for Manassas Park would be Sim Cells for the exercise.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Meeting with City of Martinsville Emergency Management Coordinator, Fire Chief, and Assistant Fire Chief to discuss pandemic influenza – how it differs from seasonal flu, preparedness messages for the media and public, preparedness plans for the City's emergency services, and the Community Pandemic Influenza Task Force/Planning Committee.
 - District Epidemiologist attended a Southwest Regional Planner/Epidemiologist meeting. Agenda included regional PanFlu summits.
 - Meeting with Health Advisory Board for the Patrick County School District to discuss PanFlu preparedness for the school system. Emphasis was placed on importance of working with community partners. Patrick County School District will be contacting the Patrick County Board of Supervisors to initiate county-wide pandemic flu planning and the Health Department will follow up to participate in, and to help facilitate, Patrick County's planning efforts. Director presented information on Pandemic Influenza threat, history, and planning. Discussion included considerations that the School District should take when planning for PanFlu and ideas for getting information to individuals and families in the community. The Community Pandemic Influenza Task Force/Planning Committee was introduced to the Health Advisory Board members, many of whom expressed interest in joining.
 - Gathering names of physicians/individuals interested in joining a Community Pandemic Influenza Task Force/Planning Committee and will begin contacting soon to arrange an introductory meeting.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Participated in the Initial Planning Conference for the October 2006 PanFlu Functional Exercise.
 - Participated in the Southwest Virginia Hospital Preparedness Commission meeting that includes participation of 13 Southwest Virginia Hospitals.
 - CPHD staff presented at Community Based Emergency Response Seminar (CBERS) that brings partners together annually to encourage inter-agency dialogue on the roles and issues of implementing mandatory isolation and quarantine. The seminar included a tabletop exercise focused on PanFlu. It was covered by local TV media.
 - Held a Public Meeting to present PanFlu information and to discuss preparedness issues at the Russell County Public Library, in Lebanon, VA.

- Prepared PanFlu Public Meeting Press Release and delivered public meeting announcement in person to local businesses, large commercial retailers, and community stakeholders (schools, local county governments, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Departments, Funeral Homes, etc.).
- Director was interviewed by WVVA television that discussed how the District was taking the threat of bird flu very seriously and how individuals and government officials can prepare for a possible future pandemic event.
- Presentation made to corporate office of regional bank committee preparing their PanFlu plan.
- Attended the Mercer County, West Virginia, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning (PIPP) Committee meeting that included stakeholders from media, utility companies, local government officials, local businesses, hospitals, faith-based communities, and county health department personnel.